Ridge. Further, orders were also passed by the Court to (i) ensure afforestation of the area by way of planting trees and (ii) fence the ridge area. Compliance action in this behalf is in progress.

(c) to (f). The Chief Minister of Delhi in a letter had requested that the Master Plan for Delhi 2001 be amended to allow more time for shifting of the industrial units affected by Supreme Court judgement. However, as the Supreme Court has fixed definite time limits for closing/shifting of certain specified categories of industries, whose continuance in Delhi was against the provisions of the Master Plan and was not considered to be in public interest, any amendments to the Master Plan at this stage will not be appropriate unless the Hon'ble Court agrees. Further the suggestion will not solve the problem; but only postpone the solution thereof.

[English]

Pattern of Earthquakes

*297. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any worthwhile study has been made about the pattern of earthquakes in the country;

(b) if so, the details and the findings thereof;

(c) whether any progress has been achieved in predicting the pattern of earthquake; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Studies have been made on distribution and nature of earthquakes in India and its neighbourhood. On the basis of these studies and other Geological and Geophysical features, Seismic zoning map of India has been prepared by Bureau of Indian Standards dividing the country into five seismic zones. Zone V is the most vulnerable to earthquakes while the zone I is the least. Tectonic map of India has also been prepared indicating fault zones. Efforts have also been made to identify earthquake precursors but without much success.

(c) and (d). No, Sir. There is no scientific technique available to forecast earthquakes.

Subsidy Programme for Solar Hot Water System under the Solar Thermal Energy Programme

*298. SHRI UTTAM SINGH PAWAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently introduced Subsidy programme for Solar Hot Water System under the Solar Thermal Energy Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether commercial as well as technological viability of Solar Hot Water System has been assessed while initiating the Scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) The Government have introduced an interest subsidy scheme for providing soft loans to users for installation of solar water heating systems under the Solar Thermal Energy Programme. The scheme is being currently operated through the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) and Canara Bank. Under the Scheme, IREDA provides soft loans for industrial and institutional systems directly (at interest rates of 8.3% to industries and 5% to non profit making organisations respectively) and for domestic systems through its financial intermediaries (at a maximum rate of 5% to end users). Canara Bank provides soft loans for solar water heaters for domestic users and small establishments at an interest rate of 5.5%. The Canara Bank Scheme is at present operational in Bangalore, Mangalore, Mysore, Delhi, Madras and Pune. Under the Scheme, a rebate of 0.5% on the above interest rates is available for installation of BIS - (Bureau of Indian Standards) approved solar collectors in the water heating systems.

(c) and (d). Bolar water heating is a well established technology in many parts of the world. In some countries, there are even mandatory provisions for using solar water heaters in residential buildings. In India also the technology is reasonably well established. The economic viability of solar water heaters, which replace use of electricity and other fuels, is also well recognised. From the national point of view, the savings in the conventional fuels and significant reduction in the peak load demand for electricity which arise from wider use of solar water heaters, result in substantial savings in the investments required for additional grid power generating capacity. Environmental benefits are added advantages.

Preservation and Processing of Fish

*299. SHRI SYDAIAH KOTA :
DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA :

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken for the development of infrastructural facilities for preservation and processing of fish sea coast;